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Fiftieth session

ACTION TAKEN ON DECISIONS OF THE FORTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

I. INTRODUCTION

1. This document provides, in summary form, information on the follow-up by UNHCR on all decisions/conclusions of the forty-ninth session of the Executive Committee that called for specific action to be taken by the High Commissioner. The sections and paragraphs referred to below correspond to those contained in the report of the forty-ninth session of the Executive Committee (A/AC.96/911). Decisions or conclusions requiring action by Governments or other entities, rather than the High Commissioner, are not reported on. To the maximum extent, Executive Committee and Standing Committee documents have been cross-referenced in order to limit the length of the report.

II. ACTION TAKEN

para. 21 Conclusion on International Protection

(e) Encourages UNHCR and States to strengthen their efforts to promote broader accession to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol and to cooperate to promote a universal and full implementation of these instruments;

(i) Encourages UNHCR to strengthen further its collaboration with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and with relevant human rights bodies and mechanisms, as well as with non-governmental organizations, with a view to strengthening refugee protection, keeping in mind the need to improve coordination, promote complementarity, avoid duplication of efforts and to preserve the distinct character of the respective mandates;

UNHCR action. See: *Note on International Protection* (EC/49/SC/CRP.12), presented to the fifteenth meeting of the Standing Committee (June/July 1999), and *Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees* (E/1999/21), presented to the 1999 Substantive Session of ECOSOC.

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(l) Notes that 1999 has been declared the International Year of Older Persons, and calls upon UNHCR to make renewed efforts to ensure that the rights, needs and dignity of elderly refugees are fully respected and addressed through appropriate programme activities;

UNHCR action: See: *Note on International Protection* (EC/49/SC/CRP.12), presented to the fifteenth meeting of the Standing Committee (June/July 1999) and *Mid-Year Progress Report*, presented to the sixteenth meeting of the Standing Committee (September 1999).

(o) Reiterates its commitment to uphold the principles of international solidarity and burden-sharing, reaffirms the need for resources to be mobilized to assist countries receiving refugees, particularly developing countries who host the large majority of the world's refugees and bear a heavy burden in this regard, and calls upon Governments, UNHCR and the international community to continue to respond to the asylum and assistance needs of refugees until durable solutions are found;

UNHCR action: See: *Note on International Protection* (EC/49/SC/CRP.12), presented to the fifteenth meeting of the Standing Committee (June/July 1999), *Social and Economic Impact of Massive Refugee Populations on Host Developing Countries, as well as Other Countries*, (EC/49/SC/CRP.24) and *Mid-Year Progress Report*, presented to the sixteenth meeting of the Standing Committee (September 1999), presented to the sixteenth meeting of the Standing Committee (September 1999) and *Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees* (E/1999/21), presented to the 1999 Substantive Session of ECOSOC.

(hh) Calls upon countries of origin, countries of asylum, UNHCR, and the international community to take all necessary measures to enable refugees to exercise freely their right to return to their homes in safety and dignity;

UNHCR action: See: *Reintegration: A Progress Report* (EC/49/SC/CRP.6), submitted to the fourteenth meeting of the Standing Committee, *Note on International Protection* (EC/49/SC/CRP.12), presented to the fifteenth meeting of the Standing Committee (June/July 1999), and *Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees* (E/1999/21), presented to the 1999 Substantive Session of ECOSOC.

(jj) Reaffirms the continuing importance of resettlement as an instrument of protection and an element of burden-sharing; calls on UNHCR to continue to work with resettlement countries to improve the efficiency and timely provision of resettlement opportunities for those where resettlement is the appropriate solution; encourages States which have not already offered resettlement opportunities to refugees, and which are capable of doing so, to join in offering such opportunities, and calls on States and UNHCR to pay particular attention to the resettlement of individual refugees with special protection needs, including women-at-risk, minors, adolescents, elderly refugees, and survivors of torture.

UNHCR action: See: *Note on International Protection* (EC/49/SC/CRP.12), presented to the fifteenth meeting of the Standing Committee (June/July 1999), *Mid-Year Progress Report*, presented to the sixteenth meeting of the

Standing Committee (September 1999), and *Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees* (E/1999/21), presented to the 1999 Substantive Session of ECOSOC.

para. 22 Decision on Informal Consultations on Protection Issues

Affirms that the informal consultations on measures to ensure international protection for all who need it have proved to be a valuable forum for constructive discussion of complex protection issues in an open manner; and requests UNHCR, in consultation with States, to continue to organize from time to time, within the limits of available resources, and with broadly based participation, informal expert consultations on protection issues of current concern.

UNHCR action: See: *Note on International Protection* (EC/49/SC/CRP.12), presented to the fifteenth meeting of the Standing Committee (June/July 1999).

para. 23 General Decision on Administrative, Financial and Programme Matters

(b) Requests the High Commissioner, within the resources available, to respond flexibly and efficiently to the needs currently indicated under 1999 General and Special Programmes which are tentatively estimated at $ 842.2 million, and to any other new needs that might arise, bearing in mind the Statute of the Office and the relevant provisions of the Financial Rules for Voluntary Funds;

UNHCR action: See: *Overall Programme and Funding Projections for 1998 and 1999* (EC/49/SC/CRP.4), presented to the fourteenth meeting of the Standing Committee (February 1999). *Update on Programme and Funding Projections for 1999* (EC/49/SC/CRP.16), presented to the fifteenth meeting of the Standing Committee (June/July 1999). *Update on UNHCR Programme and Funding Projections for 1999 and 2000* (A/AC.96/916/Add.1), presented to the sixteenth meeting of the Standing Committee (September 1999. See also related documentation: *Report of the Fourteenth Meeting of the Standing Committee* (A/AC.96/913); *Report of the Fifteenth Meeting of the Standing Committee* (A/AC.96/924); and *Report of the Sixteenth Meeting of the Standing Committee* (A/AC.96/927).

(c) Notes the *Report of the Board of Auditors to the General Assembly on the Accounts of the Voluntary Funds administered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for the year ended 31 December 1997* (A/AC.96/901), the *Report of the ACABQ on UNHCR Activities financed from Voluntary Funds: Report for 1997-1998 and proposed budget for 1999* (A/AC.96/900/Add.3), the *Report of the High Commissioner on the work of the Inspection and Evaluation Activities* (A/AC.96/902), and requests to be kept regularly informed on the measures taken to address the recommendations and the observations raised in these various oversight documents;

UNHCR action: See: *ACABQ Report on UNHCR's Proposed Budget Structure* (EC/49/SC/CRP.17) and *Audit Follow-up: Financial Management and Programme Management* (EC/49/SC/CRP.18), presented to the fifteenth meeting of the Standing Committee (June/July 1999).

(g) Requests UNHCR, in the light of discussions at the thirteenth meeting of the Standing Committee, to consult with the Board of Auditors on the implications of submitting biennial audit reports and its present method of recognizing income, and to keep the Standing Committee informed of the outcome of these consultations;

UNHCR action: See *Consultations on UNHCR's Budget Structure* (EC/49/SC/CRP.5), presented to the fourteenth meeting of the Standing Committee (February 1999) and *Report of the Fifteenth Meeting of the Standing Committee* (A/AC.96/824), presented to the sixteenth meeting of the Standing Committee (September 1999).

(h) Urges UNHCR to maintain its efforts to ensure that audit certificates are submitted by all implementing partners within the stipulated time-frame, and, where necessary, to assist, either directly or with the help of international non-governmental organizations, national non-governmental organizations to conform with this requirement;

UNHCR action: See *Report of the Fifteenth Meeting of the Standing Committee* (A/AC.96/824), presented to the sixteenth meeting of the Standing Committee (September 1999).

(i) Notes the comments of the ACABQ (A/AC.96/[illegible]/Add.1, paragraphs 32-42) on UNHCR's proposed new budget structure, and requests UNHCR to convene further consultations with Member States on the issues raised by the ACABQ, including the question of a single operational reserve, with a view to preparing a prototype of a consolidated budget to be reviewed by the ACABQ in the first part of 1999;

UNHCR action: See *ACABQ Report on UNHCR's Proposed Budget Structure* (EC/49/SC/CRP.17), presented to the fifteenth meeting of the Standing Committee (June/July 1999) and *Report of the Fifteenth Meeting of the Standing Committee* (A/AC.96/824), presented to the sixteenth meeting of the Standing Committee (September 1999).

(j) Urges the High Commissioner to ensure a more sustained and comprehensive follow-up to the 1997 Evaluation of UNHCR's Efforts on Behalf of Children and Adolescents and to the Machel Study through the mainstreaming of initiatives in this regard and requests a progress report in the course of the fifteenth session of the Executive Committee;

UNHCR action: See: Included on the tentative work programme for the Standing Committee in 2000 which was considered and noted by the Standing Committee at its Planning Meeting in December 1999.

para. 24 Conclusion on the ICR Conference Follow-up

(i) Appreciates the efforts made by the High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Organization for Migration and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to support implementation of the Programme of Action, ensure follow-up and to mobilize resources for this, and calls on them to strengthen their efforts and mutual cooperation;

(j) Urges the High Commissioner to continue to inform the public and further to enhance relationships with other key international actors.

UNHCR action: See *Mid-Year Progress Report*, presented to the sixteenth meeting of the Standing Committee (September 1999), and *Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees* (E/1999/21), presented to the 1999 Substantive Session of ECOSOC.

UNHCR action: See *Mid-Year Progress Report*, presented to the sixteenth meeting of the Standing Committee, and *Report of the Fifteenth Meeting of the Standing Committee* (A/AC.96/924), presented to the sixteenth meeting of the Standing Committee (September 1999), and *Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees* (E/1999/21), presented to the 1999 Substantive Session of ECOSOC.

UNHCR action: See *ACABQ Report on UNHCR's Proposed Budget Structure* (EC/49/SC/CRP.17) and *Audit Follow-up, Financial Management and Programme Management* (EC/49/SC/CRP.18), presented to the fifteenth meeting of the Standing Committee (June/July 1999).